



## NEWS RELEASE



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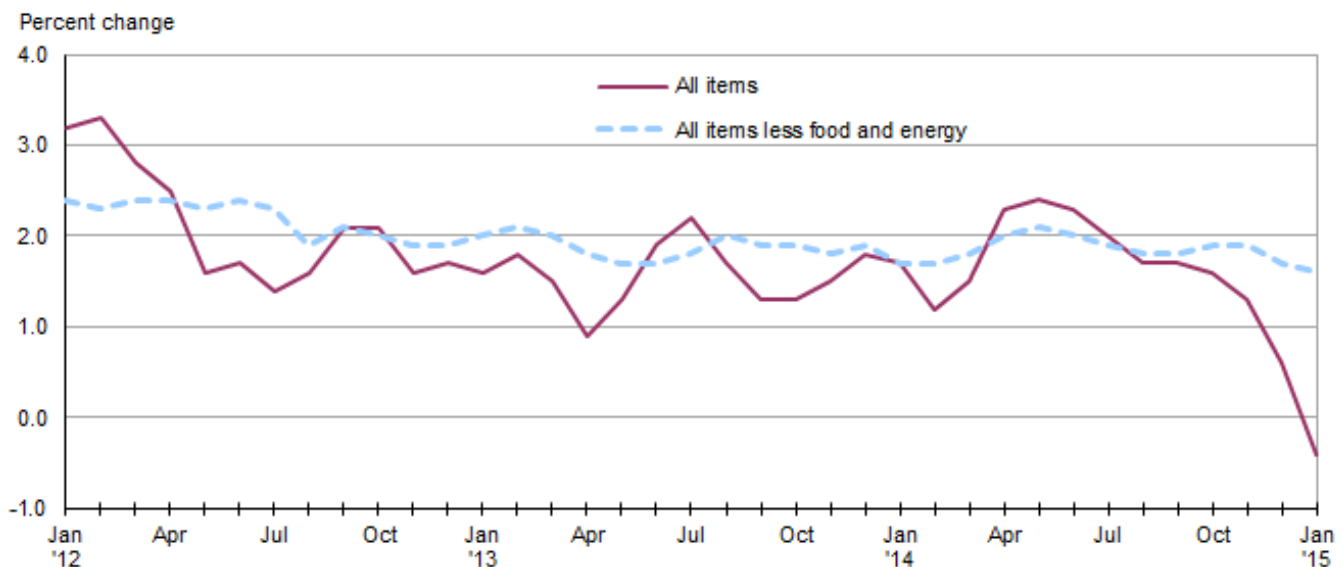
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### **Consumer Price Index, South Region – January 2015** **Prices in the South down 0.7 percent in January and 0.4 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South declined 0.7 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index decreased 8.8 percent since December 2014. The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent in January, as price increases for shelter were largely offset by price decreases for apparel. The food index edged up 0.3 percent over the month. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U declined 0.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, January 2012–January 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

The food index edged up 0.3 percent in January, as prices increased for both food at home (0.3 percent) and food away from home (0.2 percent).

Since January 2014, the food index advanced 3.0 percent, reflecting price increases for both food at home and food away from home, up 3.0 percent each.

## Energy

The energy index declined 8.8 percent over the month, led by a price decrease for motor fuel (-17.0 percent). This was the largest over-the-month decrease in motor fuel prices since December 2008. Prices also decreased for both utility (piped) gas service (-1.8 percent) and electricity (-0.2 percent) in January.

Over the year, energy prices declined 19.9 percent, reflecting a 36.1-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Electricity prices rose 2.5 percent since January 2014, and prices for utility (piped) gas service inched down 0.1 percent.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index inched up 0.1 percent in January, as price increases for shelter (0.3 percent) were largely offset by an seasonal decrease in apparel prices (-2.8 percent).

Since January 2014, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.6 percent, led by price increases for shelter (3.2 percent), medical care (1.8 percent), and other goods and services (1.9 percent).

**Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January .....	0.5	1.7	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4
February.....	0.5	2.2	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2		
March .....	1.2	2.8	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5		
April.....	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3		
May .....	0.5	4.0	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4		
June .....	-0.2	3.8	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3		
July.....	0.2	4.1	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0		
August.....	0.4	4.3	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7		
September .....	0.0	4.1	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7		
October .....	-0.2	3.7	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6		
November .....	0.0	3.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3		
December .....	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6		

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**The Consumer Price Index for February 2015 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar.

**NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods** South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items .....	229.845	228.451	226.855	-0.4	-1.3	-0.7
All items (December 1977=100) .....	372.840	370.578	367.990			
Food and beverages .....	243.889	244.250	244.810	2.8	0.4	0.2
Food .....	245.205	245.663	246.280	3.0	0.4	0.3
Food at home .....	240.939	241.044	241.728	3.0	0.3	0.3
Food away from home .....	254.433	255.417	255.943	3.0	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	224.885	223.922	223.687	0.4	-0.5	-0.1
Housing .....	217.990	218.569	218.993	2.7	0.5	0.2
Shelter .....	246.003	246.380	247.197	3.2	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	251.781	252.723	253.373	3.9	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	248.944	249.315	249.880	3.0	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	248.934	249.309	249.872	3.0	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities .....	228.352	231.030	230.105	2.3	0.8	-0.4
Household energy .....	187.777	190.676	189.693	1.7	1.0	-0.5
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	187.502	190.560	189.744	2.2	1.2	-0.4
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	185.032	188.123	187.707	2.5	1.4	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	188.053	190.639	187.295	-0.1	-0.4	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.278	122.128	122.116	-0.7	-0.1	0.0
Apparel .....	138.597	132.677	129.018	-4.1	-6.9	-2.8
Transportation .....	206.773	199.639	190.415	-11.2	-7.9	-4.6
Private transportation .....	204.697	197.594	188.164	-11.6	-8.1	-4.8
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	102.443	102.071	101.987	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1
New vehicles .....	153.371	153.346	152.980	0.6	-0.3	-0.2
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	104.410	104.390	104.137	0.7	-0.3	-0.2
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	155.148	154.711	153.920	-0.4	-0.8	-0.5
Used cars and trucks .....	143.143	141.243	141.051	-3.7	-1.5	-0.1
Motor fuel .....	247.707	220.729	183.151	-36.1	-26.1	-17.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	245.843	218.795	181.308	-36.4	-26.3	-17.1
Unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	242.473	215.110	177.411	-37.2	-26.8	-17.5
Unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	262.525	236.285	198.410	-33.7	-24.4	-16.0
Unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	254.811	230.519	195.944	-31.9	-23.1	-15.0
Medical care .....	416.704	417.474	417.671	1.8	0.2	0.0
Medical care commodities .....	332.818	334.991	333.341	3.3	0.2	-0.5
Medical care services .....	445.104	445.252	446.245	1.3	0.3	0.2
Professional services .....	354.405	354.606	354.700	1.0	0.1	0.0
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	115.626	115.502	115.948	0.3	0.3	0.4
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	135.056	134.559	134.728	0.5	-0.2	0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2014	Nov. 2014	Dec. 2014
Other goods and services .....	402.176	403.484	403.790	1.9	0.4	0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items .....	229.845	228.451	226.855	-0.4	-1.3	-0.7
Commodities .....	186.334	183.139	179.157	-4.8	-3.9	-2.2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	158.283	153.753	148.064	-9.2	-6.5	-3.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	207.305	197.983	186.119	-13.9	-10.2	-6.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel ..	249.889	238.475	221.753	-16.7	-11.3	-7.0
Durables .....	112.074	111.685	111.328	-1.7	-0.7	-0.3
Services .....	274.028	274.359	275.051	2.6	0.4	0.3
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	252.409	252.770	253.579	3.2	0.5	0.3
Transportation services .....	306.485	305.249	305.810	2.6	-0.2	0.2
Other services .....	327.332	326.734	327.885	1.6	0.2	0.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	219.409	217.937	216.281	-0.5	-1.4	-0.8
All items less food .....	227.250	225.575	223.642	-0.9	-1.6	-0.9
All items less shelter .....	224.799	222.662	220.056	-1.9	-2.1	-1.2
Commodities less food .....	160.410	155.964	150.406	-8.9	-6.2	-3.6
Nondurables .....	224.998	220.148	214.021	-5.8	-4.9	-2.8
Nondurables less food .....	208.074	199.223	188.013	-13.1	-9.6	-5.6
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	246.534	236.059	220.812	-15.5	-10.4	-6.5
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	309.801	310.105	310.670	2.1	0.3	0.2
Services less medical care services .....	258.453	258.789	259.450	2.8	0.4	0.3
Energy .....	211.214	200.483	182.897	-19.9	-13.4	-8.8
All items less energy .....	232.656	232.305	232.499	1.8	-0.1	0.1
All items less food and energy .....	230.855	230.362	230.483	1.6	-0.2	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	149.232	148.011	147.055	-1.2	-1.5	-0.6
Energy commodities .....	251.820	224.803	187.113	-35.8	-25.7	-16.8
Services less energy services .....	283.059	283.079	283.940	2.7	0.3	0.3

<sup>(1)</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>(2)</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>(3)</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

<sup>(4)</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>(5)</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.